

NH DIVISION FOR CHILDREN,
YOUTH & FAMILIES
Advisory Board Meeting
February 25, 2019

Attendance: Mike Adamkowski, Tessa Dyer, Dolly McPhaul, Senator John Regan, Rep. Patrick Long, Rep. Skip Berrien, Joseph Ribsam, Rebecca Ross, Esq. and Melissa Wardner.

Excused: Sandra McGonagle, Larry Shulman

Absent: Monica Zulauf, Rep. Kimberly Rice and Rep. Lucy Weber.

Audience: Michael Brewster

Mike Adamkowski, Chair welcomed Representative Long & Representative Berrien to the Board and gave them a little background. Basically the board is here to listen to the public, the community and the Division and try to offer advice. Some of the items that are generally discussed at the meeting are:

- DCYF Staffing - keeping track of the staffing issues within the Division in order to make sure there are enough staff to do the job needed.
- DCYF Reports - tracking the multiple reports that have been done about DCYF and making sure that the recommendations made are being followed up on.
- DCYF Training - keeping an eye on the training for DCYF staff; what is needed and how staff can get the trainings done in a timely fashion.
- SYSC - always watching to make sure that recommendations made are taken into consideration in order to keep it running as smoothly as possible.
 - Mr. Brewster had a comment about SYSC and the parental reimbursement that families had to pay for their children being sent there, it's too much. He mentioned how parental reimbursement for child protection cases has been removed with the Voluntary Services cases and why can't they do something like that for the SYSC families. He also mentioned that even if your case is unfounded by there is a recommendation the child see a counselor, then parents are charged for it.

Rep. Berrien asked about getting a new member packet sent to him so that he can read up on what the board is about and the history of it. He is concerned about the redundancy of all the Boards regarding Child Protection/Juvenile Justice. Missy will find the electronic version for Mike Adamkowski to review and he will update if needed and then send off to the new members.

There was discussion about the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and what doorways should be accessed in order to get the funds needed for the programs & services. Discussion about 3rd party providers and whether they will be able to get accredited (funds).

Legislative Discussion: Director Ribsam mentioned that most of the bills have gone through the House but will probably come back around in a revised form. Multiple bills were discussed.

Training Update: The Core training program has been revamped and they are held every 3-4 months as opposed to every 6 and staff are able to make up classes sooner than before.

Assessment Closings: The cases we are getting are a little more complex than before and we are now having the Case Aides located in the 4 largest DO's instead of in a centralized location to work on them.

Adjourned at 3:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Melissa M. Wardner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Melissa Wardner
Administrative Assistant II
DCYF